

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112044

EXDIS TOSEC 20

FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM USDEL SALT TWO 8 JUNE REPEATED

QTE USDEL SALT TWO II 0248

EXDIS/ SALT

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SECDEF

E. OM 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SEMENOV JUNE 8

1. FOLLOWING TODAY' S LUNCHEON BY SEMENOV FOR ALL SUBSTANTIVE MEMBERS OF US AND SOV DELS, READING FROM TYPEWRITTEN NOTES SEMENOV RAISED WITH ME NEWHOUSE ARTICLES IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

" JUST AS IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATIONS FOR OUR TALKS, SO ALSO IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS THEMSELVES, OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS HAD AN UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PRIVACY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET SIDE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THIS FOLLOWED FROM THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE QUESTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION, WHICH HAD
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A DIRECT BEARING ON THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF BOTH THE USSR AND THE US. IN THIS FIELD, PERHAPS MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER, IN TERMS OF TEMPO AND PRODUCTIVENESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, OBSERVANCE OF PRIVACY WAS A VERY SENSITIVE MATTER WHICH WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING AND SEARCHING FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. BECUASE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION, THE SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS WAS A VERY DELICATE MATTER. CAN THIS PROCESS BE HELPED BY A SITUATION IN WHICH ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO PRESENT THE INTENTIONS OR CONSIDERATIONS OF ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IN A BIASED AND DISTORTED MANNER? I DO NOT THINK SO. THE SOVIET SIDE HAD UNSWERVINGLY ADHERED TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF THE PRIVACY OF SALT AND BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS REQUIRED FOR TRULY BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE LARGE AND COMPLEX QUESTIONS FACING US AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS."

2. I REPLIED THAT, AS HE KNEW, THIS PROBLEM OF LEAKS IN WASHINGTON WAS NOT A NEW ONE AND THAT I WAS SATISFIED THAT MATTER WAS BEING INVESTIGATED AND I WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IF I HAD ANYTHING FURTHER.

3. HE REPEATED THAT SOVIETS WOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO PRINCIPLE OF PRIVACY IN THE TALKS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE PRIOR TO TUESDAY'S MEETING GUIDANCE ON ANYTHING FURTHER THAT IT IS FELT I SHOULD SAY TO SEMENOV ON THIS MATTER. JOHNSON UNQTE
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